

In re Patent Application of:
RUAT ET AL.
Serial No. 10/824,938
Filed: APRIL 15, 2004

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the careful examination of the present application. In view of the arguments presented in detail below, it is submitted that all claims are patentable over the prior art.

I. The Claimed Invention

Independent Claim 1 is directed to an asynchronous frame receiver comprising an input for receiving an asynchronous frame comprising a break character. The break character comprises at least three bits, each and every bit of the break character having a same value. A hot-plugging circuit is for connecting to an asynchronous data bus that is operating, the hot-plugging circuit detecting the break character, and leaving an initial idle state and switching to at least one operating mode when the break character has been detected. Independent Claim 7 is directed to a related microcontroller device.

Independent Claim 13 is directed to a method for connecting an asynchronous frame receiver to an asynchronous data bus that is operating. The method comprises setting the asynchronous frame receiver to an initial idle state. The method further comprises receiving at an input of the asynchronous frame receiver an asynchronous frame comprising a break character. The break character comprises at least three bits, each and every bit of the break character having a same value. Moreover, the method

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includes detecting the break character and switching the asynchronous frame receiver from the initial idle state to at least one operating mode.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 7, and 13 over the combination of Rakib et al. and Douceur. Rakib et al. discloses a system for bidirectional communication of digital data between a central unit and a remote unit wherein the need for tracking loops in the central unit has been eliminated. The central unit transmitter generates a master carrier and a master clock signal that are used to transmit downstream data to the remote units. The remote units recover the master carrier and master clock and synchronize local oscillators in each remote unit to these master carrier and master clock signals to generate reference carrier and clock signals for use by the remote unit receiver. A Barker code is used to synchronize the local oscillators. The Examiner correctly recognized that Rakib et al. fails to disclose the claimed feature of an input for receiving an asynchronous frame comprising a break character, the break character comprising at least three bits, each and every bit of the break character having a same value. In an attempt to provide this critical deficiency to the combination, the Examiner looked to Douceur.

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Douceur discloses the use of geometric expansion and contraction to resize hash tables. The portion of Douceur cited by the Examiner as disclosing the claimed feature of the break character comprising at least three bits, each and every bit of the break character having a same value, (Col. 16, lines 18-23) actually discloses an example of splitting a linked list containing hash table segments. In this particular example of Douceur, an entry of the linked list having an address of 00 has another bit added to its least significant bit, so that the entry now has an address of 000. This address is not a break character and cannot be correlated to a break character. In fact, Douceur makes no reference whatsoever to asynchronous frame receivers or break characters. Therefore, the combination of Rakib et al. and Douceur fails to disclose an input for receiving an asynchronous frame comprising a break character, the break character comprising at least three bits, each and every bit of the break character having a same value.

In addition, one of skill in the art would simply not look to Douceur and its disclosure of methods of manipulating hash tables to modify the synchronization of the local oscillators of Rakib et al. as these two references are directed to divergent technical fields, and indeed, have little if anything to do with each other. The Examiner's combination is nothing more than a hindsight reconstruction of Applicant's

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claims.

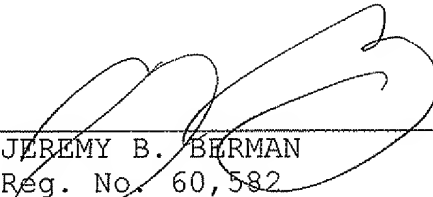
Independent Claims 1, 7, and 13 are therefore patentable over the selective and improper combination of Rakib et al. and Douceur. Their respective dependent claims, which recite yet further distinguishing details, are likewise patentable and require no further discussion herein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the arguments provided herein, it is submitted that all the claims are patentable. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is requested in due course. Should any minor informalities need to be addressed, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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